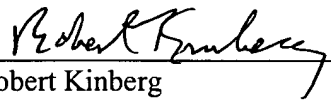


**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is made to eliminate multiple claim dependency.  
Examination on the merits of the application is requested.

Date: 12/17/04

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robert Kinberg  
Registration No. 26,924  
VENABLE  
P.O. Box 34385  
Washington, D.C. 20043-9998  
Telephone: (202) 344-4000  
Telefax: (202) 344-8300

RK/mg  
#605857